

# ***Acronyms, Acronyms!!!***

**....and other transportation jargon pertinent to the TEA program**  
***Caution!! These are not in alphabetical order!!!***

## **Legislation:**

**ISTEA** Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991  
(6-Year federal transportation act 1991-1997)

**TEA-21** Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century  
(6-Year federal transportation act (1997-2003))

**SB 45** Senate Bill 45. State legislation to change transportation programming in California. Decentralizes many programming decisions from state to regional level.

## **Programming Documents:**

**STIP** State Transportation Improvement Program  
Multi-year capital improvement program  
(Composed of the ITIP and RTIPs)  
Updated every 2 years

**SHOPP** State Highway Operations and Protection Program  
Multi-year maintenance and operation program

**RTIP** List of capital improvement projects from Regional Transportation Planning Agencies; these go into the STIP.

**ITIP** List of capital improvement projects from Caltrans; these go into the STIP.

**Fund Estimate** "Best guess" estimate of programming capacity for the STIP

The Decision-Makers:

- FHWA** Federal Highway Administration  
FHWA approves all federal projects.
- CTC** California Transportation Commission  
Responsible for programming and allocating funds to projects.  
Will adopt program guidelines for TEA program.
- RTPA** Regional Transportation Planning Agency  
Designated by state statute. There are 43 RTPAs.  
(In smaller counties, usually the County Transportation Commission; in urban counties, usually the MPO is the RTPA.)  
RTPAs put together the RTIPs for CTC approval.
- Caltrans** California Department of Transportation  
Caltrans puts together the ITIP for CTC approval.
- MPOs** Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Federal designation for urban areas.  
(Typically, the MPO is the RTPA in urban areas.)

Funding Programs:

- TEA** Transportation Enhancement Activities  
A 10% set-aside from Surface Transportation Program
- STP** Surface Transportation Program  
(Part of STP resides on the state side, part on the local assistance side)
- RSTP** Regional Surface Transportation Program  
(The portion of the STP residing on the local assistance side -- *outside* the STIP.)

Funding Terms:

- OA (Obligation Authority)** California's capacity for spending federal transportation dollars in a given year.
- Obligation** To "obligate funds" is to encumber them to the project for the capital phases of the project (acquisition or construction).  
This is the measure used to determine that a project is "delivered".
- Second Vote (Allocation Vote)** Project-by-project vote by the CTC.  
Applies to projects in the STIP and those from the statewide shares of TEA. This is the go-ahead for funds to be obligated on the project, and for the project to proceed to acquisition or construction.